

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR RO SP

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN REACTION TO SPANISH EXECUTIONS

REF: (A) BERLIN 6497; (B) MOSCOW 14245

1. ROMANIAN REACTION TO EVENTS IN SPAIN HAS BEEN TO PUT THEIR PROTESTS ON RECORD, INCLUDING AN RCP CC DECLARATION CONDEMNING EXECUTIONS, BUT TO TAKE NO ABRUPT ACTION WHICH WOULD TERMINATE THEIR CURRENT TRADE AND CONSULAR RELATIONS WITH GOS, UNLIKE
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THE GDR (REFTEL A).

2. PRIOR TO EXECUTION OF MILITANTS, PRIME MINISTER MANESCU HAD ADDRESSED TELEGRAM URGING REPEAL OF DEATH SENTENCES TO HIS SPANISH COUNTERPART, AND UPON CARRYING OUT OF SENTENCES, CENTRAL PRESS OCTOBER 2 CARRIED RCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECLARATION WHICH PROTESTED EXECUTIONS AS "DESPOTIC" ACT REPRESENTING A BRUTAL INFRINGEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES AND "FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF CSCE FINAL ACT"; INTERESTINGLY THE LATTER ACCUSATION HAS BEEN A REPEATED THEME OF THE ROMANIAN PROTEST HERE. IN ADDITION, CC DECLARATION REAFFIRMED RCP SOLIDARITY WITH "SPANISH CP, THE WORKING CLASS AND OTHER PATRIOTIC DEMOCRATIC FORCES." THE USUAL MEETINGS OF MASS ORGANIZATIONS (LABOR, STUDENTS, YOUTH, WOMEN, ETC.) HAVE ENDORSED CC DECLARATION.

3. MEDIA HAS ALSO FAITHFULLY REPORTED FOREIGN PROTESTS AND INTERNAL SPANISH DEMONSTRATIONS AND STRIKES, WITH FAIRLY HEAVY TV ATTENTION. THE FIVE BASQUE SEPARATISTS WERE CHARACTERIZED SIMPLY AS "ANTI-FASCIST MILITANTS" BY THE PRESS.

4. COMMENT: THE GOR IS CONTINUING ITS POLICY (SIMILAR TO THAT PURSUED WITH THE PRESENT CHILEAN REGIME) OF MAINTAINING OFFICIAL TIES WITH THE EXISTING SPANISH GOVERNMENT, WHILE AT SAME TIME PUBLICLY ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST OPPOSITION TO THAT SAME GOVERNMENT. IN THE SPANISH CASE THIS POLICY IS SOMEWHAT MORE COMPLICATED BY THE CLOSE POLICY IDENTIFICATION AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP OF THE RCP WITH THE SPANISH CP AND ITS LEADER, SANTIAGO CARILLO. NEVERTHELESS, THE LEVEL AND FORM, I.E. PARTY, NOT STATE, OF THE ROMANIAN PROTEST SEEM ADEQUATE TO MEET ITS OBJECTIVES.
BARNES

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